

Report of the Strategic Director Health and Wellbeing to the meeting of Health and Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee to be held on 27 January 2022

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Subject: PREPARATION FOR ADULTHOOD AND TRANSITIONS PATHWAYS FROM CHILDREN TO ADULT SERVICES

Summary statement:

This report informs Members of:

- The position in relation to the integrated transitions service for 16-25 year-old disabled young people and their families in Bradford, including the policy context for such changes;
- Improvements to strengthen pathways for young people with learning disabilities, physical disabilities and mental health in order to better align services and resources; and
- performance against the Adult Social Care Outcomes Framework (ASCOF) over the past year.

EQUALITY & DIVERSITY:

Equality objectives – work on transition of children and young people with the most complex disabilities contribute to the Council’s corporate equality objectives in relation to services being designed and commissioned to be accessible, inclusive and responsive to the needs of people and communities.

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Portfolio:

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Overview & Scrutiny Area:

Health and Wellbeing

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1. This report outlines continuing work to improve pathways which are designed to provide young people with the most complex disabilities and their families across the Bradford District with improved information and support into adulthood and independence.
- 1.2. Work continues in partnership with young people with the most complex disabilities and their families to improve the education, health and social care offer and align support to meet Care Act eligible needs to key outcomes which prepare for adulthood and maximise independence at point of transition.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1. The Children and Families Act 2014 and the accompanying SEND Code of Practice (2015) placed a duty on local authorities and local area partners to:

develop a shared vision and strategy which focuses on aspirations and outcomes, using information from EHC plans and other planning to anticipate the needs of children and young people with SEN and ensure there are pathways into employment, independent living, participation in society and good health.

- 2.2. As set out in the SEND Code of Practice (2015) and within the Care and Support Statutory Guidance to the Care Act (2015), preparing for adulthood means preparing for:

1. *higher education and/or employment* – this includes exploring different employment options, such as support for becoming self-employed and help from supported employment agencies;
2. *independent living* – this means young people having choice, control and freedom over their lives and the support they have, their accommodation and living arrangements, including supported living;
3. *participating in society*, including having friends and supportive relationships, and participating in, and contributing to, the local community and participation in democratic life; and
4. *being as healthy* as possible in adult life.

- 2.3. The Department of Health and Wellbeing supports young people with the most complex disabilities to transition from children to adult social care services. This work is based on the four outcomes for preparing young people for adulthood.

3. Report Issues

- 3.1. During 2019 and early 2020, the National Development Team for Inclusion Preparation for Adulthood Team were funded by the Department for Education to facilitate workshops which included young people with complex disabilities, their parents and carers meeting with professionals from health, education and social care. The outcome from this work was a commitment to strengthen the approach towards transition from Children to Adult Services and to fully align planning for young people with the most complex disabilities so that by their 18th birthday

support to meet their Care Act eligible needs was structured around the four Preparation for Adulthood outcomes above.

3.2. Service planning for transition within adult social care has emphasised these outcomes as priorities for social work practice. Practitioners have worked with young people to develop:

- 3.2.1. Young Ambassadors who act as an advisory group on any future developments through a Young People's Forum.
- 3.2.2. A Bill of Rights setting out how young people and adults wish to be supported by social workers to meet their ambitions and aspirations for their lives. Work is now under way to review how well recruitment processes for social workers align to the expectations set out by people with disabilities in the Bill of Rights.
- 3.2.3. Promote the Vote, a joint initiative with the Elections Team, providing young people from age 16+ with information about their right to participate in democratic and political life, support to register to vote and support to turn out on polling day.
- 3.2.4. Personal Assistants Network, which supports around 40 carers who work as Personal Assistants, sharing ideas and creatively planning how to meet leisure and friendship needs.
- 3.2.5. Gig Buddies, an inclusion project which connects together people with complex disabilities and their non-disabled peers through shared love of music, culture, sports and cinema.
- 3.2.6. From September 2021, the launch of the Into Employment Scheme, which is providing supported internships for up to 10 young people with complex disabilities each year through a partnership between Education, Adult Social Care and the School of Rock and Media. From the first cohort, 60% of participants have already secured paid employment as their internship comes to an end.

3.3. Commissioners have supported the improvement work through streamlining the Direct Payments and Personal Health Budgets processes and by using Innovation Grant Funding to support local community organisations to expand their offer to young people with complex disabilities. There has been a 30% increase in Direct Payments costs, demonstrating more flexible and creative support plans meeting needs of people with more complex presenting cognition and behaviour.

3.4. The impact of these improvements has been that adults who have transitioned across have been supported to do so in a way that upholds their dignity and their right to be in control of their lives. There have also been improvements in efficiency of services and quality of life outcomes for people with disabilities the services support:

- 3.4.1. In the last 2 years 593 young people with the most complex disabilities have been supported to transition into adult social care services.
- 3.4.2. There have been no detentions under Section 3 of the Mental Health Act and there are currently no Bradford residents detained in the local Assessment and Treatment Unit.
- 3.4.3. There has been a 46% reduction in the use of residential care services and a £1.3m reduction in expenditure (59%) on residential care, and only 2 new

placements required to meet assessed, eligible needs, both of which were made in area.

3.4.4. The costs of meeting eligible needs for this cohort across all services is providing better value.

3.5. There has been an associated improvement in the Council's ranking on the Adult Social Care Outcome Framework, however the proportion of adults in paid employment remains a challenge:

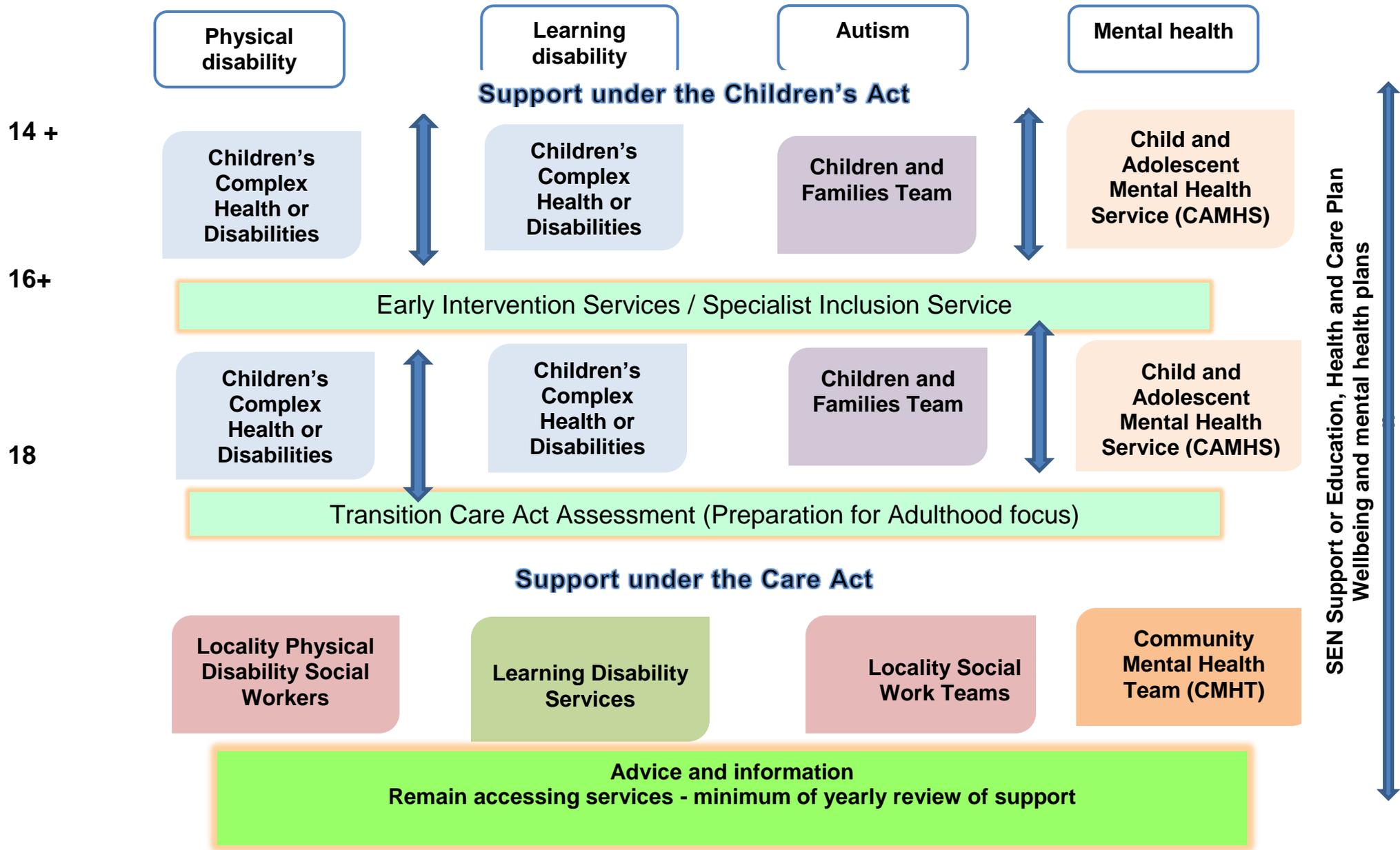
3.5.1. The proportion of people who live in their own home or with family is 87.9%, which is above the Yorkshire regional (81.6%) and England national (78.3%) average.

3.5.2. The proportion of people with learning disabilities aged 18-64 whose needs are met through admission to residential or nursing care per 100,000 population is 8.8, which is lower than the Yorkshire regional (14.1) and England national (13.3) average and ranks Bradford as second best in the region.

3.5.3. The proportion of adults with a learning disability in paid employment has remained at 3.8, compared with the Yorkshire regional average of 6 and the England national average of 5.1.

3.6. A further review took place of the transition pathway during summer 2021, in order to provide improved clarity and accountability in relation to statutory children and adult social care responsibilities under the Children Act 1989 and the Care Act 2014. Officers from Bradford Children and Adult Services met with their counterparts from Leeds City Council and shared expertise between both teams in relation to development of operational protocols and working procedures. Further work is continuing the joint Directorate Management Teams to review and refresh during spring 2022 the Bradford Transitions Protocol.

The Integrated Transition Pathway from Children to Adult Services:



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4. FINANCIAL & RESOURCE APPRAISAL

The Year to date spend by the Department of Health and Wellbeing to end December 2021 (9 months) is currently £5,027,459 across learning disability and physical disability adults aged between 18 -25. Based on live care lines the remaining forecast spend will be £1,368,103 making a full year projected spend of £6,395,563.

5. RISK MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE ISSUES

The Directorate Management Team's across Health and Wellbeing and Children's Services are progressing joint work to refresh the Transition Protocol and ensure that all actions arising from ongoing review of improvement work across both Directorates if fully integrated.

6. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

6.1 HUMAN RIGHTS ACT

Article 12 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, reaffirms that people with disabilities have equal rights before the law and enjoy legal capacity to make decisions about how they live and enjoy their lives on an equal basis with all other people. The Human Rights Act conveys positive obligations on Local Authorities in England to uphold Article 12 rights in decision affecting how young people with the most complex disabilities are supported to prepare to become adults.

6.2 IMPLICATIONS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE

Young people with the most complex disabilities who were also children in care are included in the Transitions Protocol work continuing through the joint Children Services and Health and Wellbeing Directorate Management Teams.

7. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Members note the contents of the report and continued progress to improve the extent to which transitioning planning is aligned to the 4 preparation for adulthood outcomes which young people and their families advocate for.

8. APPENDICES

8.1 Young People's Bill of Rights

8.2 Preparation for Adulthood case studies

Appendix A: Young People's Bill of Rights

- I have the right to be treated with respect
- I have the right to be able to make my own choices and decisions
- I have the right to a social worker who will be supportive of my decisions, and will listen to my dreams, wants and aspirations
- I have the right to be supported when I am being bullied
- I have the right to not be discriminated against or judged
- I have the right to have my voice heard
- I have the right to be treated fairly
- I have the right to be treated equally
- I have the right to take appropriate risks
- I have the right for my disability and feelings to be considered at all times
- I have the right to higher education
- I have the right to get married
- I have the right to be employed
- I have the right to take as much time as I need to make a decision
- I have the right to be seen as a person, not just my disability

Signature:

